

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

IO-14 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 AID-20 DPW-01 ACDA-19

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FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4549

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

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AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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7/13 AF
7TH PSYOPS
COMUSSAG
III MAF
CINCPACAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 PHNOM PENH 678

JOINT EMBASSY/DAO

GENERAL

1. THE ENEMY'S DRY SEASON CAMPAIGN CONTINUED THIS WEEK TO FOCUS O *A MAJO* EFFORT SMEDIATELY TO THE NORTHWEST AND NORTH OF PHNOM PHENH, WHICH THREATENED THE POL FACILITY AT PREK PHNOU AND, TO A LESSER EXTENT, POCHENTONG AIRPORT. FANK WAS ABLE TO CONTAIN BUT NBQ ROLL BACK THE RE-IN-FORCED ENEMY PENETRATION.HXL SO OF CONCERN WAS THE RE-INTERDICTION OF ROUTE 4 TO THE COAST AND THE LOSS OF THE GKR'S ONLY CEMENT PLANT NEAR KOMPOT. PHNTA PENH AND ITS AIRPORT CONTINUED TO RECEIVE A SMALL NUMBER OF ROCKETS ALMOST DAILY, BUT LITTLE DAMAGE HAS YET BEEN REGISTERED. COMPLETELY INCOMPATIBLE WITH THIS SETTING WAS A PEACE PROPOSAL BY FORMER PRIME MINISTER SON SANN, WHICH ENVIS-AGED PRESIDENT LON NOL'S DEPARTURE FROM THE COUNTRY AS BRINGING ABOUT A GENERAL CEASE-FIRE. BOTH THE GKR AND THE GRUNK IN THEIR OWN SEPARATE WAYS POINTED OUT THE UNREALITY OF SON SANN'S THINKING. THERE WAS SOME PROGRESS ON THE ECONOMIC SCENE AS THE RECENT INCREASE IN RICE STOCKS RESULTED IN A MUCH NEEDED DROP IN PRICES AND IN THE AMOUNTS DISTRIBUTED BY THE GOVERNMENT. IN KEEPING WITH ITS ANNOUNCED ECONOMIC PROGRAM, THE NEW CABINET DEVZARED A 3,000 RIEL ACROSS-THE-BOARD INCREASE IN
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THE SALARIES OF CIVIL AND MILITARY OFFICIALS, WHICH MUST NOW BE APPROVED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

POLITICAL (INTERNAL)

2. FORMER PRIME MINISTER AND WOULD BE "THIRD FORCE" LEADER SON SANN MADE PUBLIC ON JANUARY 12 HIS PERSONAL "CONTRI-BUTION" TO A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN CAMBODIA, ADVOCATING

IN EFFECT LON NOL'S DEPARTURE TO BRING ABOUT "A POPULAR MOVEMENT FOR PEACE" AND A GENERAL CEASEFIRE. SON SANN'S

STATEMENT WAS EFFECTIVELY REBUTTED THE FOLLOWING DAY BY MINISTER OF INFORMATION TRINH HOANH WHO EMPHASIZED THAT IT HAD BEEN THE COMMUNISTS AND NOT THE GKR WHO HAVE REJECTED A PEACEFUL REETBUTION, A POINT FURTHER SUPPORTED BY STATEMENTS ISSUED BY SIHANOUK GRUNK/FUNK (SEE PARAS 8 AND 9). TRINH HOANH ADDED THAT LON NOL, AS A PRESIDENT ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE, "HAS NO INTENTION OF RENOUNCING HIS RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE KHMER NATION IN DANGER." COMMENT: SON SANN'S ILL-CONSIDERED AND ILL-TIMED "CONTRIBUTION" COULD SERVE TO PRESERVE THE ILLUSION AMONG SOME KHMER, WHO ARE LOOKING FOR AN EASY WAY OUT OF THE CURRENTLY HARMS CIRCUMSTANCES, THAT ONLY LON NOL STANDS

BETWEEN THEM AND PEACE. AS YET WE HAVE REGISTERED LITTLE PUBLIC REACTION TO SON SANN'S PROPOSALS, BUT WE HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT THE LEFTIST-FD STUDENT ASSOCIATION OF THE FACULTY OF LETTERS HAS CALLED A MEETING ON "PEACE PROBLEMS" FOR JANUARY 16.

3. *OUNTERI G REPORTS OF POSSIBLE PEACE TALKS IN VIENTIANE, TRINH HOANH IN A JANUARY 10 PRESS CONFERENCE DESCRIBED THE STATE OF GKR-GRUNK CONVERSATIONS AS "UNOFFICIAL" CONTACTS WITH "DISSIDENTS" RATHER THA WITH KEY FUNK PERSONNEL. TRINH HOANH ALSO DENIED PRESS REPORTS THAT THQ GKR WAS CONSIDERINGASKING FOR A RENEWAL OF U.S. AIR SUPPORT.

4. CONSCRIPTION STATISTICS ROSE MARKEDLY THIS WEEK BUT THIS WAS DUE TO THE INCLUSION FOR THE FIRST TIME OF FIGURES FOR AREAS OUTSIDE PHNOM PENH. THE TOTAL OF MEN CONFIDENTIAL

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SENT TO THE RECRUITMENT CENTER WAS LISTED AT 16,008 AS OF JANUARY 14 (COMPARED TO 13,335 AS OF JANUARY 7). THE WEEKLY FIGURE FOR PHNOM PENH WAS 33. AS PREVIOUS FIGURES FOR PHNOM PENH INCLUDED SOME PERSONS ACTUALLY RECRUITED ELSEWHERE, THE CORRECTED CUMULATIVE TOTAL FOR THE CAPITAL CITY AREA IS NOW GIVEN AS 12,892 (FANK CARRIES IN ADDITION 240 RALLIERS, WHICH WE FEEL SHOULD NOT BE INCLUDED). CUMULATIVE FIGURES FOR OTHER REGIONS ARE: 3RD MR-1,666; 4TH MR-152; KOMPONG SOM-312; TAKEO-417; BAPHNOM-739.

5. PRIME MINISTER AGAIN MET WITH HIS PRINCIPAL COLLEAGUES THIS WEEK TO DECIDE UPON FURTHER MEASURES TO RE-ENERGIZE THE CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN. DECISIONS WERE MADE ON THE MANNER OF CONDUCTING A NEW CENSUS, WHICH SHOULD BEGIN TOWARDS THW END OF THE MONTH, AND ON THE APPOINTMENT OF

BG YONG YOC HANG AS FULL TIME CHIEF OF STAFF TO OVERSEE BOTH
THE CIVIL AND MILITARY SIDES OF CONSCRIPTION.

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O R 151230Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4550

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 PHNOM PENH 0678

6. THE NATIONAL STUDENTS ASSOCIATION AND VARIOUS FACULTY ASSOCIATIONS HAVE BEGUN SENDING LISTS OF THEIR DEMANDS TO THE GOVERNMENT. THE LISTS ARE SIMILAR FOR THE MOST PART, CALLING FOR AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER AND MONETARY AMOUNT OF SCHOLARSHIPS, FOR MAINTAINING THE FAVORABLE RATE OF EXCHANGE FOR STUDENT PURCHASES OF BOOKS AND SCHOLASTIC MATERIALS, AND FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO KEEP ITS "PROMISES" NOT TO INTEGRATE STUDENTS INTO THE ARMY IN ANY FORM. COMMENT: THE LAST POINT IS APPARENTLY IN REACTION TO THE NEW CONSCRIPTION DEGREE'S PROVISIONS FOR STUDENT MILITARY TRAINING (SEE KHMER REPORT 1/2/74).

7. POLITICAL (EXTERNAL) THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AND THE CHANCELLER OF THE GKR MISSION TO THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC HWE SWITCHED THEIR LOYALTIES TO GRUNK. PRINCE SISOWATH METHAVI, WHO HAS BEEN IN PEKING WITH SIHANOUK AND WAS THE LATTER'S FORMER AMBASSADOR TO THE GDR, WILL APPARENTLY RETURN TO EAST BERLIN TO HEAD THE NEW GRUNK MISSION THERE. IN THE MEANTIME, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN PHNOM PENH HAS ASKED THE CULTURAL ATTACHE IN EAST BERLIN, WHO REMAINS LOYAL TO THE GKR, NOT TO LEAVE HIS POST.

8. GRUNK/FUNK (INTERNAL) SIHANOUK AND FUNK REACTED QUICKLY, FORCEFULLY AND, OF COURSE, NEGATIVELY TO THE VARIOUS STORIES FROM
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PHNOM PENH CONCERNING POSSIBLE NEGOTIATIONS. AFP ON JANUARY 8 REPORTED THAT SIHANOUK, COMMENTING ON THE MOK LEAN INSPIRED REPORTS OF A GRUNK-GKR MEETING IN VIETNAME (SEE LAST WEEK'S KR), PROCLAIMED THAT THE "WOULD WILL NEVER SEE" RECONCILIATION BETWEEN THE TWO. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT "THE RED LEADERS OF THE INTERIOR RESISTANCE THEMSELVES HAVE AGAIN JUST SOLEMNLY AFFIRMED THAT THERE HAS NEVER BEEN AND WILL NEVER BE CONTACT OR NEGOTIATIONS OR COMPROMISE OR RECONCILIATION BETWEEN RED KHMER, GRUNKK, CPNLAF AND THE GANG OF PHNOM PENH TRAITORS". HE PROMISED THE "IRREVERSIBLE ELIMINATION" OF "AMERICAN IMPERIALISM AND ITS LON NOLIST VALETS" EVEN IF TEN OR TWENTY YEARS ARE NEEDED TO ACHIEVE THAT GOAL.

9. REFERRING TO THE SON SANN STATEMENT, THE PRINCE IN A JAN 13 TELEGRAM TO AFP SAID THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE "THIRD FORCE" ARE "TRAITORS...FIT TO BE HANGED" JUST AS ARE THE GKR LEADERS. HE EMPHASIZED AGAIN THAT THERE WOULD BE NO QUESTION OF NEGOTIATIONS OR CONTACTS OR "ANY OTHER NONSENCEKT WITH ANYONE IN PHNOM PENH, INCLUDING THE "THIRD FORCE". SIHANOUK WARNED THAT THE "TRAITORS" SHOULD LEAVE PHNOM PENH IF THEY WANTED TO ESCAPE THEIR "JUST" PUNISHMENT; HOWEVER, IF THEY SURRENDER UNCONDITIONALLY TO FUNK, THEY WOULD RECEIVE A COMPLETE AMNESTY. AKI ON JAN 13 SUPPORTED THIS GENERAL LINE IN STRESSING THAT THERE WILL BE "NO COMPROMISE" WITH PHNOM PENH AND THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS TALK IS A DECEPTION FOSTERED BY THE GKR TO DELAY ITS COLLAPSE.

10. FUNK CONTINUED ITS PROPAGANDA BARRAGE ON CPNLAF "TRIUMPHS" AGAINST POCHENTONG AND AROUND PHNOM PENH AND ITS WARNING TO PHNOM PENH CITIZENS TO EVACUATE. AKI IN ONE REPORT REFERRED TO PHNOM PENH AS BEING "IN AS BIG AS TURMOIL AS A SMOKING VOLCANO", AND "ON THE VERGE OF ERUPTION" AS A RESULT OF THE MILITARY PRESSURE ON IT AND THE ALLEGED NON-EXISTANCE OF RICE, WATER, FUEL, ETC. IN A JANUARY 14 RADIO MESSAGE, FUNK INFORMED NATIVE AND FOREIGN RESIDENTS OF THE CITY THAT "GUNFIRE FROM ALL DIRECTIONS IS RESOUNDING IN PHNOM PENH NOW." THE RESIDENTS WERE ASKED TO IMMEDIATELY FLEE TO THE OTHER SIDE WHERE THEY WOULD BE GUARANTEED SECURITY AND LIVELIHOOD. THE BROADCAST
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WARNED THAT "IT IS TIME; DO NOT LAG BEHIND."

11. GRUNK/FUNK (EXTERNAL) AKI ANNOUNCED ON JANUARY 11 THAT THE

REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE HAD RECOGNIZED GUNK AS THE "DE JURE GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA" AS OF DECEMBER 28 AND THAT ON DECEMBER 29

SIHANOUK HAD SENT A LETTER OF THANKS TO THE PRESIDENT OF
SIERRA LEONE.

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SPM-01 AGR-20 DRC-01 NIC-01 /189 W

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O R 151230Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4551

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 3 PHNOM PENH 0678

12. ECONOMIC. MINISTER OF INFORMATION TRINH HOANH ANNOUNCED ON JANUARY 10 A NEW SQXTEM OF BONUSES FOR CIVIL SERVANTS AND THE MILITARY TO COUNTER THE RISING COST OF LIVING. THE MEASURE CONSISTS OF A MONTHLY ACROSS-THE-BOARD INCREASE OF 3,000 RIELS REGARDLESS OF THE FUNCTION OR RANK OF THE EMPLOYEE. STILL TO BE APPROVED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, IT WILL COST 11 BILLION RIELS IN THE FIRST YEAR, ACCORDING TO TRINH HOANH. COMMENT: THIS ANNOUNCEMENT FULFILLS THE PROMISE MADE BY THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN THE DEC 28 PRESENTATION OF ITS PROGRAM BEFORE THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

13. AS OF JANUARY 13 THERE WERE 27 DAYS SUPPLY OF RICE ON HAND IN PHNOM PENH WARZFHouses AND 24 DAYS SUPPLY I E KOMPONG SOM. ONLY SOME 330 TONS OF RICE WERE TRANSPORTED TO PHNOM PENH FROM KOMPONG SOM THIS WEEK DURING THEUTHORT PERIOD RT 4 WAS OPENED. BECAUSE OF DIFFICULTIES IN CLEARING THIS ROAD, AN EFFORT WILL BE UNDERWAY SHO*TLY TO SHIFT A MAJOR PORTION OF THEKOMPONG ELM STOCK TO PHNOM PENH, PROBABLY VIA THE MEKONG.

5'. THE RECENT INCREASE IN RICE STOCKS COUPLED WITH A STEADY DISTRIBUTUION RATE APPEAR TO BE ACHIEVING DESIRED RESULTS. PRICES FOR MEDIUM GRAIN US ICE CONTINUE TO DROP
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AND HAVE NOW REACHED 8,500 RIELS PER 100 KG BAG. ANOTHER POSITIVE INDICATOR IS THAT THE DISTRIBUTION NOW APPEARS TO BE DROPPING BELOW THE AUTHORIZED 650 PER DAY LEVEL.

15. SUFFICIENT STOCKS OF MOST POL PRODUCTS ARE ON HAND TO CARRY REDUCED CONSUMPTION REQUIREMENTS UNTIL THE NEXT SCHEDULED CONVOY. TARGETS FOR CIVILIAN POL STOCKS ARE NOT BEING MET HOWEVER DUE TO THE GENERAL UNAVAILABILITY OF PRODUCTS. TELA KHMER IS MAKING SPECIAL EFFORTS TO OBTAIN SUFFICIENT ADO AND IDO NEEDED FOR THE BATTAMBANG RICE HARVEST. INITIATIVES ARE CONTINUING TO INCREASE SUPPLIES FOR PHNOM PENH.

16. ENEMY PRESSURE TO THE NORTH AND NORTHWEST HAS RESULTED IN THE DISPLACING OF 34-44,000 PEOPLE, MOST OF THEM VILLAGERS BUT SOME PREVIOUSLY SETTLED REFUGEES AS WELL. THUS FAR, THE BRUNT OF THE RELIEF EFFORT HAS BEEN BORNE BY THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, PARTICULARLY IOG.

17. MILITARY. THE CONTINUATION OF THE ENEMY'S OFFENSIVE EFFORTS TO THE NORTH AND NORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH AND THE FANK REACTION IN THESE AREAS OCCUPIED THE MILITARY SPOTLIGHT AGAIN THIS WEEK. THE ENEMY SUCCEEDED IN REINFORCING HIS INITIAL ASSAULT IN THE NORTHWEST, WHICH PENETRATED TO WITHIN APPROXIMATELY 5 KMS OF POCHENTONG AIRPORT. HE WAS, HOWEVER, UNABLE TO EXPAND HIS CONTROL, DESPITE CONSTANT PRESSURE FROM THE NORTH AGAINST THE PREK PHNOM POL FACILITY AND THE INTERDICTION OF RTE 1, THE 7TH DIVISION'S MAIN SUPPLY ROUTE. THE FANK REACTION, CENTERING AROUND FORCES FROM THE 28TH BRIGADE, 1ST DIVISION, 7TH DIVISION AND 5TH BRIGADE AND EVEN ONE BATTALION FROM THE PALACE GUARD, 69TH BRIGADE, SUPPORTED BY AIR FORCE AND NAVY ELEMENTS, WAS SUCCESSFUL IN BLUNTING THE ENEMY INITIATIVES AND REOPENING RT 51. FANK EFFORTS, HOWEVER, LACKED THE AGGRESSIVENESS AND DETERMINATION TO ELIMINATE THE ENEMY. AT WEEK'S END, THE FRONT LINES ARE MUCH THE SAME AS AT THE START OF THE WEEK WITH NEITHER SIDE MAKING ANY SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS.

18. TWO OTHER MAJOR CONCERNS FOR FANK WERE THE ENEMY'S
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RE CUTTING OF RTE 4 WEST OF KOMPONG SPEU, WHICH TRAPPED ABOUT (10 CONVOY TRUCKS IN THE AREA OF SRE KHLONG (VT2452) AND INDICATIONS THAT ENEMY ACTIVITY MAY INCREASE ON THE SOUTHWEST FRONT BETWEEN RTES 3 AND 4. ANY INCREASE IN ENEMY INITIATIVES IN THESE AREAS WOULD OVEREXTEND THE LIMITED FANK RESERVE FORCES UNLESS THE THREAT IN THE NORTHWEST IS

ELIMINATED EXPEDITIOUSLY OR OTHER UNITS BR
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Message Attributes

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